(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme has been prepared to ensure security of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and minorities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that this scheme will be fully funded by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Functioning of National Commission on SC/ST

4030. SHRI MATANG SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on SC and ST has complained about Government interference in its working and treating it as a subordinate office;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the Commission discharges its assigned responsibilities freely; and

(d) whether Government propose to take initiatives to strengthen the composition and functioning of the board?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In pursuance of Clause (4) of Section 2 of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990, the Commission have the power to regulate its own procedure to perform its own function and responsibilities freely.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal.

Guidelines Issued to SC/ST Financial Corporation

4031. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines for the working of the SC/ST Financial Corporation; and

(b) what are the activities undertaken by the SC/ST Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) are service oriented organisation and are acting as catalysts and agencies for mobilising institutional finance through margin money loan programme/seed money. These activities are meant to play a useful role for the economic development of Scheduled Caste families below poverty line. The schemes undertaken for this purpose are as per the Statement.

Statement

The schemes undertaken by various SCDCs are more or less same; still they vary from State to State in term of name and nature. Some common schemes are listed below:—

1. Agriculture and Small Irrigation
2. Animal Husbandry
3. Fisheries
4. Cottage and Small Scale industries
5. Trade and Business
6. Rural Transport and others

Industry Sector

Trade and Business sector

Professional Sector

(a) Auto Rickshaw (b) Rickshaw (c) Legal profession (d) photography (e) Redemption of Agri. Land (f) Purchases of photo State machine and (g) purchase of light commercial vehicles.

Small Industries

(i) General Engineering work
(ii) Leather goods Manufacturing
(iii) Wooden/cane furniture manufacturing

Small business

(i) Grocery shop (ii) Petty shop (iii) Fire-wood shop (iv) Mobile vending

Service Units

(i) Carpentry (ii) Laundry (iii) Auto Rickshaw (iv) Sound Service etc.

Reservation Facility to Converted Christians

4032. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has recently informed the National Council for Churches in India that Government would consider extending the job reservation facility applicable to scheduled castes, to all those who have embraced Christianity; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Special Care to The Physically Disabled Persons

4033. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mentally retarded, deaf and dumb and physically handicapped persons are frequent victims of crimes of violence, rape, fraud etc.,

(b) whether it is also a fact that such person need special protection and attention; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act for speedy and deterrant action against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is alreday seized of the matter of amending the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in so far as it relates to the handicapped persons. There is no proposal at present to amend Evidence Act.

Reservation For SCs/STs In Government Departments

4034. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the date when reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was introduced in Government Jobs;

(b) whether posts set apart for them have actually been filled up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The reservation for SC and ST was introduced on 21.9.47 and 13.9.50 respectively in direct recruitment and was subsequently extended to promotions in stages.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Vacancies set apart for SC/ST are being filled up to the extent of availability of these candidates for appointment/promotion.

(d) As in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to fulfil the reserved quota are as follows:—

(i) Government has banned dereservation in all cases of direct recruitment to fill the vacancies in groups A,B,C and D. According to this, if SC/ST candidates are not available to fill the vacancies reserved for